



**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE**

LESTER SPELL, JR., D.V.M.  
COMMISSIONER

I am pleased to publish this edition of *Mississippi Agricultural Statistics*. This publication contains information widely used by leaders in agriculture and government. The information is vital to sound decision making throughout the State.

The Department was instrumental in attracting a new cattle slaughter plant to the State. The facility will specialize in cull cows. It was important to assure there would be an adequate supply of cull cows. Accurate statistics were a key to providing that assurance.

The Department continues to work with investors to bring new industrial operations to our State. Mississippi is rich in agricultural commodities and timber. We can successfully compete with surrounding states to improve the State's economy for all its citizens.

I am proud of the record the Department has set as we have met challenging issues over the years. The "Make Mine Mississippi" program has boosted the State's reputation throughout the Nation. We have been instrumental in addressing the mislabeled foreign catfish issue. We are an effective voice for producers in their dealings with EPA and a host of other government agencies. I am confident that we will continue to serve Mississippi well in the future.

Thank you for your support in this challenging job.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lester Spell, Jr. DVM".

Lester Spell, Jr., D.V.M.  
Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce

